GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:714
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
STRIKES BY DOCTORS IN AIIMS
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of strikes by doctors, nurses and other employees in AIIMS, New Delhi, during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;

(b) the main causes for these strikes;

(c) whether the Government has evolved any effective mechanism to avert these strikes and save patients from harassment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS)

(a) to (d). Despite clear directions of the High Court of Delhi against any strike restraining employees/doctors of AIIMS from resorting to any strike around 500 meters of AIIMS, the doctors of AIIMS were on strike on a number of occasions during 2006-07 and 2007-08. The details are as under: -

i. During 14.5.06 to 31.5.2006 AIIMS doctors resorted to strike protesting against the policy of the Government for providing reservation to OBC in Central Educational Institutions. AIIMS premises was used as hub of activities during the said period.

ii. During 5.7.06 to 7.7.06 the AIIMS doctors again resorted to strike mainly against the decision of the Institute Body to curtail the tenure of Director, AIIMS. Services were resorted only on the orders dated 7.7.2006 of High Court of Delhi.

iii. During 28.8.07 to 30.8.07, the Doctors of AIIMS were on strike which was mainly because of delay in holding of Convocation for issue of degrees.

iv. On 8.11.2007, emergency services were stopped due to manhandling of doctors by the relatives of a patient.
The Government has advised the Director, AIIMS to ensure that the doctors/other employees of AIIMS do not resort to strike in violation of the orders passed by the High Court/Supreme Court of India, if necessary, with the assistance of Police.

The Institute Body at its meeting held on 18.10.2006 also sought the response from Director, AIIMS on the action taken to ensure that the patient care services were not affected during the strike period of 2006. His response is yet to be considered by the Institute Body.